

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

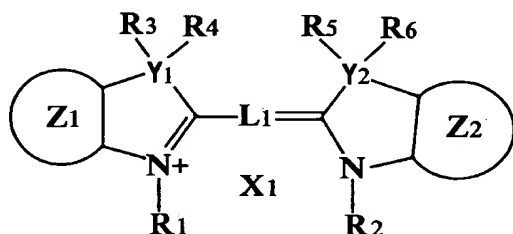
Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An optical recording medium having a recording layer to which information is recorded by using a laser with an oscillation wavelength of about 390 to about 450 nm or shorter:

in said recording layer an organic dye compound which shows an absorption maximum at a wavelength longer than the oscillation wavelength of said laser but absorbs said laser in a level sufficient to record information in said recording layer.

2. (Previously Presented) The optical recording medium of claim 1, wherein said organic dye compound is represented by Formula 1;

Formula 1:



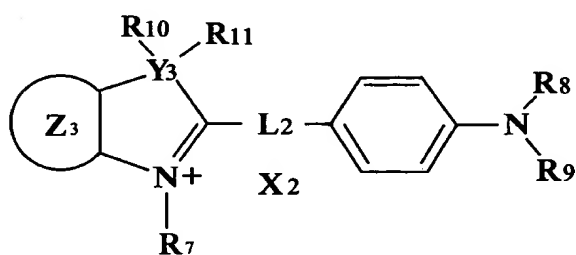
wherein in Formula 1, Z<sub>1</sub> and Z<sub>2</sub> denote the same or different optionally substituted aromatic rings; Y<sub>1</sub> and Y<sub>2</sub> independently denote carbon atoms or hetero atoms; R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub> denote optionally substituted aliphatic hydrocarbon groups; R<sub>3</sub>

to  $R_6$  independently denote hydrogen atoms or compatible substituents, and when  $Y_1$  and  $Y_2$  are hetero atoms, the whole or a part of  $R_3$  to  $R_6$  does not exist;  $L_1$  denotes a polymethine chain which may have a substituent and/or a cyclic group; and

$X_1$  denotes a compatible counter-ion selected from the group consisting of nitrate ion, phosphate ion, perchlorate ion, periodate ion, hexafluoroantimonate ion, hexafluorostannate ion, tetrafluoroborate ion, thiocyanate ion, benzenesulfonate ion, naphthalenesulfonate ion, benzoate ion, alkylcarbonate ion, trihaloalkylcarbonate ion, alkylsulfonate ion, trihaloalkylsulfonate ion, nicotinate ion, trimethylammonium ion, and triethylammonium ion.

3. (Previously Presented) The optical recording medium of claim 1, wherein said organic dye compound is represented by Formula 2;

Formula 2:



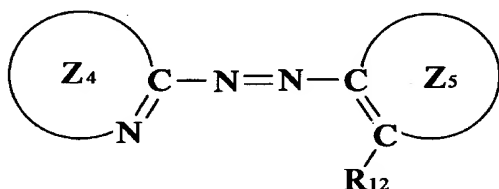
wherein in Formula 2,  $Z_3$  denotes an optionally substituted aromatic ring;  $Y_3$  denotes a carbon atom or a hetero atom;  $R_7$  to  $R_9$  denote the same or different optionally substituted aliphatic hydrocarbon groups;  $R_{10}$  and  $R_{11}$

independently denote hydrogen atoms or compatible substituents, and when  $Y_3$  is a hetero atom,  $R_{10}$  and/or  $R_{11}$  do not exist;  $L_2$  denotes a polymethine chain which may have a substituent and/or a cyclic group; and

$X_2$  denotes a compatible counter-ion selected from the group consisting of nitrate ion, phosphate ion, perchlorate ion, periodate ion, hexafluoroantimonate ion, hexafluorostannate ion, tetrafluoroborate ion, thiocyanate ion, benzenesulfonate ion, naphthalenesulfonate ion, benoate ion, alkylcarbonate ion, trihaloalkylcarbonate ion, alkylsulfonate ion, trihaloalkylsulfonate ion, nicotinate ion, trimethylammonium ion, and triethylammonium ion.

4. (Previously Presented) The optical recording medium of claim 1, wherein said organic dye compound is a metal complex of an azo compound represented by Formula 3;

Formula 3:



wherein in Formula 3,  $Z_4$  and  $Z_5$  denote the same or different optionally substituted aromatic hydrocarbon groups or heterocycles; and  $R_{12}$  denotes an acidic group.

5. (Previously Presented) The optical recording medium of claim 1, which uses a laser beam with a wavelength of around 405 nm as a writing light.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Original) The optical recording medium of claim 1, which uses, in said recording layer, one or more other dye compounds sensitive to visible light and/or a compatible light-resistant improver(s) in combination.

8. (Currently Amended) In an optical recording method to record information by using an optical recording medium comprising a substrate and a recording layer provided on said substrate by using an organic dye compound and irradiating said recording layer with a writing light to act on said organic dye compound to form a pit on said substrate, the improvement comprising

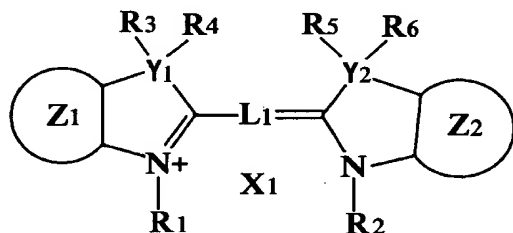
using, as a main organic dye compound for forming pits, an organic dye compound which has an absorption maximum with a wavelength less than 850 nm and substantially absorbs a writing light with a wavelength shorter than the absorption maximum of said organic dye compound, and

irradiating a recording layer on a substrate with the writing light to form a pit on said substrate,

wherein said writing light has a wavelength of about 390 to about 450 nm ~~or shorter~~.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, wherein said organic dye compound is represented by Formula 1;

Formula 1:

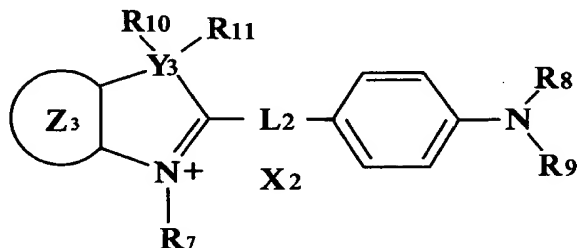


wherein in Formula 1, Z<sub>1</sub> and Z<sub>2</sub> denote the same or different optionally substituted aromatic rings; Y<sub>1</sub> and Y<sub>2</sub> independently denote carbon atoms or hetero atoms; R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub> denote optionally substituted aliphatic hydrocarbon groups; R<sub>3</sub> to R<sub>6</sub> independently denote hydrogen atoms or compatible substituents, and when Y<sub>1</sub> and Y<sub>2</sub> are hetero atoms, the whole or a part of R<sub>3</sub> to R<sub>6</sub> does not exist; L<sub>1</sub> denotes a polymethine chain which may have a substituent and/or a cyclic group; and

X<sub>1</sub> denotes a compatible counter-ion selected from the group consisting of nitrate ion, phosphate ion, perchlorate ion, periodate ion, hexafluoroantimonate ion, hexafluorostannate ion, tetrafluoroborate ion, thiocyanate ion, benzenesulfonate ion, naphthalenesulfonate ion, benzoate ion, alkylcarbonate ion, trihaloalkylcarbonate ion, alkylsulfonate ion, trihaloalkylsulfonate ion, nicotinate ion, trimethylammonium ion, and triethylammonium ion.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, wherein said organic dye compound is represented by Formula 2;

Formula 2:

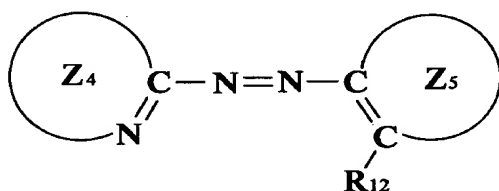


wherein in Formula 2, Z<sub>3</sub> denotes an optionally substituted aromatic ring; Y<sub>3</sub> denotes a carbon atom or a hetero atom; R<sub>7</sub> to R<sub>9</sub> denote the same or different optionally substituted aliphatic hydrocarbon groups; R<sub>10</sub> and R<sub>11</sub> independently denote hydrogen atoms or compatible substituents, and when Y<sub>3</sub> is a hetero atom, R<sub>10</sub> and/or R<sub>11</sub> do not exist; L<sub>2</sub> denotes a polymethine chain which may have a substituent and/or a cyclic group; and

X<sub>2</sub> denotes a compatible counter-ion selected from the group consisting of nitrate ion, phosphate ion, perchlorate ion, periodate ion, hexafluoroantimonate ion, hexafluorostannate ion, tetrafluoroborate ion, thiocyanate ion, benzenesulfonate ion, naphthalenesulfonate ion, benzoate ion, alkylcarbonate ion, trihaloalkylcarbonate ion, alkylsulfonate ion, trihaloalkylsulfonate ion, nicotinate ion, trimethylammonium ion, and triethylammonium ion.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, wherein said organic dye compound is a metal complex of an azo compound represented by Formula 3;

Formula 3:



wherein in Formula 3, Z<sub>4</sub> and Z<sub>5</sub> denote the same or different optionally substituted aromatic hydrocarbon groups or heterocycles; and R<sub>12</sub> denotes an acidic group.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, which uses a laser beam with a wavelength of around 405 nm as a writing light.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, which uses, in said recording layer, one or more other dye compounds sensitive to visible light and/or a compatible light-resistant improver(s) in combination.

Claims 15 - 18. (Canceled)